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DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
Security Committee

DCI/IC 77-1937/1
23 November 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Deputy to the DCI for the Intelligence Community

STAT FROM: [redacted]
Acting Chairman

SUBJECT: Paragraph Classification Marking

Attached is a proposed memorandum to Sayre Stevens for your signature replying to his request to you on optional placement of paragraph classification markings. I have directed [redacted] STAT as one of the drafters of the NSC implementing directive involved to try to get this option included.

[redacted] STAT

Attachment:
Memo to DD/NFAC

MORI/CDF

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DCI/IC 77-1937

1 DEC 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Sayre Stevens
Deputy Director, NFAC

FROM: John N. McMahon
Acting Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

SUBJECT: Paragraph Classification Marking

REFERENCE: Memo from DD/NFAC, dated 16 November 1977, subject: "Proposed National Security Council Directive Concerning National Security Information and Material"

You asked in referenced memorandum if I could try to get the draft implementing directive for the proposed Executive Order on security classification to permit paragraph classification marking symbols to be placed at either the beginning or the end of paragraphs. I can and will try to do so, and have asked [redacted] as one of the drafters of that directive to seek agreement thereon from the other drafters of that committee. Please note that the matter of placement of paragraph security markings is not settled. The draft directive you have is an early version written by a Defense representative who expressed Defense practice on this matter. I see no reason why such markings cannot be placed anywhere on a document so long as a reader can readily determine from them the classification status of each paragraph. STAT STAT

[redacted]

John N. McMahon

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16 NOV 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: John N. McMahon
Associate Deputy to the DCI for the
Intelligence Community

FROM : Sayre Stevens
Deputy Director, NFAC

SUBJECT : Proposed National Security Council
Directive Concerning National Security
Information and Material

John -

STAT

1. In response to a request from [redacted] of the Office of General Counsel, Harry Eisenbeiss, Director of Central Reference, has commented on behalf STAT of NFAC on some of the proposals from [redacted] for implementing Executive Order 11652. One additional matter, previously raised, warrants consideration before the rules are finally set.

2. My concern is over the rigidity of the requirement in the draft proposals that the classification markings shall "immediately precede" the text of each paragraph (Section I, G.(4) of the first draft, Section B.7(d) of the second). The purpose of the requirement is to facilitate excerpting. For this, it does not matter whether the markings appear at the beginning or end of the paragraph. It does, however, make a significant difference for the readability of publications. Placing classification symbols before each paragraph would intrude in the reader's path and provide an additional impediment in our continuing effort to make our publications more attractive and readable. Bearing in mind that National Intelligence Estimates and many of NFAC's other issuances are designed primarily for high-level consumers, including the President, we should not lightly make their reading more difficult.

3. Mr. Knoche's report to the NFIB Executive Secretary on 12 July 1977 incorporated this same point, but to no avail. The need for retaining an option on the placement of security markings is important to us, and I urge you to see if it can be done. STAT

[redacted]

Sayre Stevens

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SUBJECT: Paragraph Classification Marking

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DCI/IC/SECOM [redacted]:23Nov77

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